(1) the number of small-pox attacks at Chelakkara and the number died during 1104;

(2) what remedial measures did the Government take to prevent spreading of the disease?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) There have been 72 attacks and 19 deaths from small-pox in Chelakkara in 1104 till the 8th of Mithunam.

(2) Vaccination is being pushed on in this village as well as in the other infected villages by appointing a temporary vaccinator in addition to the Circle Vaccinator.

Supply of medicines.

45. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government kindly state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that during the year 1104 many of the Hospitals in the State do not get medicines in time and that the quantity supplied to them is insufficient to meet their requirements; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, the number of complaints received in the matter; the Hospitals in respect of which such complaints were made and the action taken by the Government thereon?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) As there was a change in the system of purchase of medical stores and tenders had to be called for from England, there was delay in the submission of the Home indent. The indents could not be placed until all details connected therewith were settled. But medical officers who have asked for medicines from time to time have invariably been supplied from the Reserve Store as is evident from the statement enclosed. (*Vide Appendix III.*)

(b) In many institutions the number of patients is very much in excess of the previous year's attendance and hence the estimated supply may have fallen short of requirements; but no complaints have yet been received in the matter.

Holding of Panchayat meetings outside Panchayat Areas.

46. Mr K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is the policy of the Government to allow Panchayat meetings to be held outside the area of the respective Panchayats; and if so,

(b) how many Panchayats are holding their meetings outside their areas and what are the names of these Panchayats;

(c) what is the reason in each case for holding the meeting outside the Panchayat jurisdiction;

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(d) whether it is not the rule that the members of the Panchayats should have residence within their Panchayat limits?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) No.

(b) One; viz., the Arthat Group Panchayat.

(c) The Arthat Group Panchayat organised in 1096 had jurisdiction over the villages of Arthat, Kanippayyur and Anjur. The Panchayat office was first held in the Kunnamkulam Proverthy Cutcheri building. It was subsequently shifted to a building in Kanippayyur village owned by the then President. In 1100 Kanippayyur village was taken away from the jurisdiction of the Panchayat, when the office was shifted to a building in Kunnamkulam village owned by the then President and is still held there. Kunnamkulam is very near the boundaries of the Arthat and Anjur villages. There was also no complaint in the matter from the public during the last four years. The Superintendent did not, therefore, object to the resolution of the Panchayat.

(d) Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How many Panchayats are holding meetings outside the area of the Panchayats?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The answer is there.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—The answer is 'one'. Will the Government make necessary arrangements for holding meetings within the area of the Panchayats?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Whether it will be done next year, that is, 1105?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The Panchayats have already been asked to hold their offices within their jurisdiction.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—When did they ask?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Very recently.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How many months, approximately?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—In the course of a month.

Mr. K T. Mathew.—Will the Hon'ble Member place that request on the Table?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—They have been asked.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know the date on which they requested? Did he not receive any request from the Panchayats concerned?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—When was it?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I want notice for it.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What was the necessity for the Member to refer to them when they have already requested for that?

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Mr. I. Raman Menon.—No objection was raised by the people about the holding of office outside the limit of the Panchayat jurisdiction. The office was held very close to the boundary of the village. No objections were received until lately Instructions have already been issued to Panchayats to hold their office within their own jurisdiction.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—When did the Panchayats request the Government that they should be allowed to hold meetings within their own jurisdiction ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Nobody prevented them from holding their office within their jurisdiction. It was according to their own resolution that they were holding the meeting in the building referred to. When a requisition has been made, they have been asked to hold their meetings within their own jurisdiction.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Did you bring to the notice of that Panchayat that it is the policy of the Government that the Panchayat office can be held within the area of the Panchayat concerned ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—They were allowed to hold their office outside the Panchayat jurisdiction in accordance with a resolution passed by the Panchayat itself.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Did the Government bring to their notice that the resolution passed is contrary to the policy of the Government? That is my question.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That question does not arise at all.

President.—My intervention is only to close this affair. The thing is they passed a resolution. Can you not have pointed out to them that the resolution is unacceptable because no Panchayat office can be held outside the Panchayat jurisdiction? Was it not within your power to say that the resolution cannot be given effect to because the office cannot be held outside the Panchayat area ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I did not find any serious objection to their holding the office just outside the Panchayat limits at that time. But when a representation was received, the Panchayat has been asked to hold their office within the Panchayat jurisdiction.

President.—At that time he did not think it necessary to raise any objection, but now definite instructions have been issued that the Panchayats must be invariably held within their own jurisdiction.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know when they passed the resolution, the year ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I want notice.

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